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SUBJECT: IRELAND ON TURKEY'S EU ACCESSION -- AKP DECISION

CRITICAL

REF: STATE 79278

11. (SBU) On July 29, 2008 POLOFF delivered reftel demarche to Ciara Delaney, First Secretary for Enlargement & Eastern Europe in the Department of Foreign Affairs' EU Division. Delaney indicated that the outcome of the AKP case will strongly influence the EU's treatment of Turkey. She stated that current reports suggest that the verdict will be less severe than originally anticipated and that it is likely to be announced by end of day on July 29. The Irish Government's preference is that negotiations on Turkey's accession are not suspended. However, the final decision will be dependent upon upcoming EU discussions. FAUCHER